News from the Connecticut Science Center

Inspiring the Next Generation

The face of STEM education is changing. With the adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards and the increasing demand for a highly skilled STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) workforce, stakeholders—including community mentors, workforce development programs, and informal learning destinations such as science centers—must work together to inspire Connecticut's next generation of STEM professionals.

The Connecticut Science Center and the Petit Family Foundation recognize such leaders at the annual STEM Achievement Awards Breakfast. On April 25, we will honor local individuals and organizations for outstanding contributions in STEM education as well as promoting participation of women and girls in the STEM fields.

Congratulations to the 2017 Honorees

Claudine C. Phaire
2017 Petit Family Foundation Women in Science Leadership Award
Phaire is CH-53K Engineering Proposal Manager at Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation. She mentors engineering and aviation-minded youth through work with the National Society of Black Engineers, the Society of Women Engineers, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and Girl Scouts of Connecticut.

Carolyn Begnoche
2017 Connecticut Science Center STEM Achievement Individual Award
Begnoche is Senior Design Drafter/Checker at United Technologies Aerospace Systems. She mentors women and young people in engineering fields via work with the Society of Women Engineers, Women in Aviation International, and FIRST Robotics.

CBIA Education & Workforce Partnership
2017 Connecticut Science Center STEM Achievement Organization Award
Established in 1983, this Partnership collaborates with urban communities through school districts and the technical high school system. Programs focus on developing a skilled STEM workforce while tapping into students' creativity.

Honorees were selected by Science Center's Women in Science Steering Committee and STEM Awards Selection Committee. The STEM Achievement Awards Breakfast is presented by Stanley Black & Decker with support from Burns & McDonnell.

STEM Achievement Awards Breakfast Tickets are $40 per person/$35 for Science Center members. Register at CTScienceCenter.org/awards or call (860) 520-2514.

Connecticut Science Center®

The Connecticut Science Center inspires lifelong learning through interactive and innovative experiences that explore our changing world through science.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

STEM Achievement Awards Breakfast
Tuesday, April 25 | 7:30–9:30AM

Presented by
Stanley Black & Decker with
support from Burns & McDonnell

Cooking up Chemistry: Molecular Gastronomy Lecture with Dr. Nicholas Leadbeater
Thursday, May 4 | 6–8PM

The Science of Workforce Development: Next Generation Science Standards and Tomorrow's Talent
Tuesday, June 13 | 7:30–9:30AM

Presented in partnership with
CBIA, with support from the
State of Connecticut

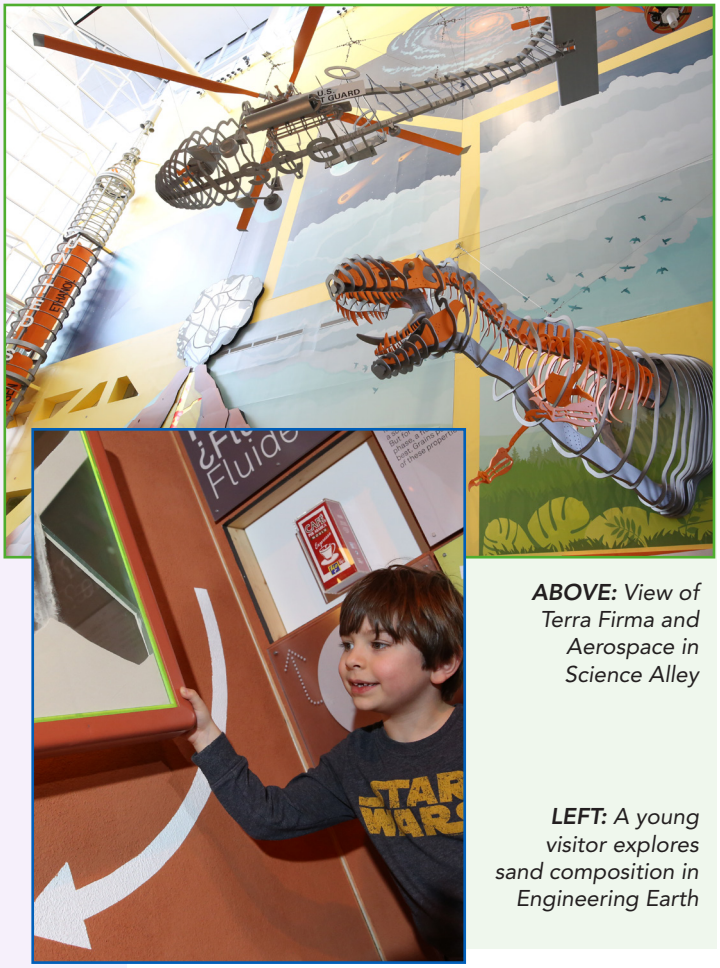
The Green Gala
Saturday, September 16
6:30PM–Midnight at the Pratt
& Whitney Hangar Museum

Exploration Abounds in New Science Center Spaces

From the depths of the ocean to the mysteries of outer space, Connecticut Science Center visitors can now "See the Unseen" in the newly unveiled *Science Alley*. This soaring atrium has been transformed into an immersive, 10-story exhibit experience featuring large scale installations of a treacherous tornado, the Hubble Space Telescope, a Mercury-Redstone rocket, a jet engine, and more. The unveiling of *Science Alley* kicks off a major multi-year expansion of exhibit and program offerings for families, students, and educators.

Within the exhibit galleries, a new traveling exhibition, *Engineering Earth*, makes its North American debut at the Connecticut Science Center now through September. Not only is *Engineering Earth* a hit among family visitors, but its curriculum connections to grades 3 through 8 in the areas of engineering design, structure and properties of matter, and geology are attracting a wide range of field trip visitors. In this unique blend of materials science, engineering, and art, the endless possibilities of the Earth's oldest building material — dirt — are examined in both historical and future contexts. New technologies present dirt as the future's greenest construction resource, and *Engineering Earth* reveals its exciting applications around the globe.

Engineering Earth is presented by Stanley Black & Decker, with the support of CBS, a Xerox Company, in the Saint Francis Hospital & Medical Center Traveling Exhibit Gallery. ■



ABOVE: *View of Terra Firma and Aerospace in Science Alley*

LEFT: *A young visitor explores sand composition in Engineering Earth*

Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers at the Connecticut Science Center ®

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Thank you for your support of the Connecticut Science Center.

The Connecticut Science Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

For additional information, contact John Bourdeaux, Vice President of Advancement, at (860) 520-2131 or jbourdeaux@CTScienceCenter.org.

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ABOVE: *Cheryl Tokarski, Vice President of Programs, Connecticut Science Center*

Meet Cheryl Tokarski

Welcome Cheryl Tokarski, the Connecticut Science Center's new Vice President of Programs. Tokarski oversees all programs for students at the Science Center, as well professional development programs at our Mandell Academy for Teachers. With her team of STEM Educators and Professional Development Facilitators, Tokarski works tirelessly to transform STEM learning experiences not only at the Science Center, but also in classrooms throughout the state.

Tokarski's teaching, engineering, and business background, coupled with a passion for education, has led her to this key role. Prior to joining the Science Center, she worked for GE, Dana Corp., and Pitney Bowes, and she owned a consulting firm before becoming a math and computer science teacher.

In her own words, Tokarski aims to "synergistically connect multiple Science Center programs to classroom and life experiences, thus supporting a continuum of life-long learning for students, teachers, and families." The goal is to create coherent science learning experiences that will help foster critical thinking, collaboration, and creative problem solving skills. ■